

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, District No. 5

The COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, BUDGET WORKSHOP, met on Tuesday, June 18, 2002, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:10 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, Council Member District No. 5, Chairman; Mr. Milton Farley, Council Member District No. 1; Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2; Mr. William E. Crosby, Council Member District No. 3; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Council Member District No. 4; Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Council Member District No. 6; Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Council Member District No. 7; Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., Council Member District No. 8; Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio; and Ms. Barbara B. Austin, Clerk to County Council.

The requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been complied with by posting the time, date, place and agenda of this meeting of Berkeley County Council at the entrance to the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and a copy of such notice was mailed to all Council Members, the News media, and all interested Citizens.

Chairman Vaughn called the meeting to order. Councilmember Davis gave the invocation and Councilmember Mims led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Mr. Robert Metts, Administrative Director, distributed the following to Council: 1) changes made in the recommended budget since first reading (a copy will be attached to the minutes marked as #1); 2) actual changes in each line item (increases or decreases) (a copy will be attached to the minutes marked as # 2), on this sheet the numbers in parentheses, () denotes a decrease.”

The following questions are from sheets #1 & #2:

Supervisor Rozier: “The budget went from \$35,595,933 to \$35,691,642, approximately \$94,000 increase.”

Councilmember Richardson: “Is there a general or specific reason why the changes were made?”

Supervisor Rozier: “The changes in the Revenue were done by taking be most recent projected revenues for this year and updating the revenues. Some revenues were coming in higher than anticipated. For example: 00100-4110 General Fund – Delinquent Property Tax,

\$600,000 was projected, but we have collected \$594,000 thus far, with one and ½ month turnover still not recorded.”

Councilmember Crosby: “Why does line item 41206-5101, Magistrate’s Court – Personnel Services, not reconcile with the \$1,225,000 in the budget book?”

Robbie Metts: “The line item in question was a reflection of a change in Personnel Services alone, and did not pertain to any other area of the Magistrate’s budget.”

Supervisor Rozier: “The changes that are being shown only effect the areas listed; it does not affect the departments budget as a whole.”

Councilmember Pinckney: “Is 00100-4350, General Fund – Carryover from prior year, used to balance the budget?”

Supervisor Rozier: “It is. In 2001-2002, the Carryover was \$2,042,827. In 2000-2001, the Carryover was \$3,799,207. When the budget is to a point of being balanced by a couple million dollars, it is then balanced by Carryover. In years past, the Fund Balance continued to grow, even when Carryover was used from the Fund Balance. This year approximately \$1 Million will be saved that will reduce the Carryover by \$1 Million. In the past two years the Fund Balance has been used, as well as this year, because times have not been good. You save money in the Fund Balance during the good times, and use it during the difficult times.”

Councilmember Pinckney: “Will this budget show how much is in the Fund Balance?”

Supervisor Rozier: “That would not be in the budget, but will be reflected in the audit at the end of the year. Last year the Fund Balance was approximately \$6.8 million. Last year \$1 million less was used than expected, and hopes are that the same will occur this year.”

Councilmember Pinckney: “If the bottom drops out would we have enough money in the Fund Balance to at least operate for six (6) months to a year?”

Supervisor Rozier: “According to how far the bottom drops out.”

Councilmember Pinckney: “Completely.”

Supervisor Rozier: “No, what you would do is borrow short term money called TANS (Tax Anticipation Notes). Most counties line up every July at the bank borrowing TANS.”

Chairman Steve: “It is unreasonable to think that the bottom would drop out to use \$6.8 Million.”

Supervisor Rozier: “We have not had to borrow TANS in the past twelve years. We use to do it all the time. We may have to this year, times are not good, but hopefully we will not

have to. That is why you build up a Fund Balance. At one time the Fund Balance was \$10 million. Now it is \$6.8 million.”

Councilmember Davis: “We are using that money to live off of, instead of borrowing short term debt?”

Chairman Vaughn: “We have for the last three (3) years. Why would you borrow money and pay interest when you have the money there?”

Councilmember Davis: “That is what I would do, and that is what we did in Sangaree.”

Supervisor Rozier: “Fund Balance is not just a pot of money sitting there. It’s money that is there, and money you project to come in. It’s a combination of money in the bank and money you project to bring in until taxes start coming in. Fund Balance is made up of several different categories.”

Chairman Vaughn: “I think the key is that the growth of the Government should be in line with the growth of the County. In other words, if the growth of the Government grows faster than the county there is going to be a problem. I think in the future Mt. Pleasant is going to see a major problem with that.”

Supervisor Rozier: “We have not done that personnel wise, we have done that income wise. Our employees incomes have grown significantly; although, we have not increased employee wise.”

Councilmember Richardson: “You are talking about the population?”

Supervisor Rozier: “I am talking about County employees. The number of employees in the County has not increased with the population.”

Chairman Vaughn: “Let’s just hope that builders will keep building high priced housing so that the taxes revenue will keep coming in along with more industry.”

Supervisor Rozier: “Everyone needs to understand that our projection of Revenue is just that, a projection. Generally, we come in pretty good with our projections. Our budget is like the budget in your household. It is a projection of what we think we will spend. Every year so far we have had some money left over, because we kept tightening things up.”

Councilmember Mims: “Why do some of the changes under personnel services have a decrease, for example: 41212-5101, Clerk of Court?”

Robbie Metts: “That was because of a decrease in health insurance premium. A position was filled and we were able to save on the cost of health coverage. The employee chose a plan with a lower premium.”

Supervisor Rozier: "We offer three or four different health plans and each has a different premium. When we have an open position that we project money for, we always use the highest amount, because we don't know which insurance the individual will select."

Councilmember Mims: "Would that be the same for 42103-5101, Communications; 42301-5101 Detention Center; 43103-5101 Roads and Bridges?"

Marie Wauben, Human Resource Director: "When we budget for a position it is done over ten percent (10%)."

Robbie Metts: "In 43103 a position was eliminated in that department."

Councilmember Mims: "The COLA budgeted for employees was at what percent (%)"

Supervisor Rozier: "At 5%. That doesn't mean we are going to get 5%. We budgeted 5%, but we wait until April the following year to award that raise. That raise will be adjusted accordingly."

Councilmember Pinckney: "Would that be for merit or cost of living?"

Supervisor Rozier: "Based on merit."

Councilmember Mims: "How many new positions are there and in what departments?"

Supervisor Rozier: "Two (2) Deputies will be hired for eleven (11) months; Three 3 Paramedics to be hired for six (6) months, starting in January. In the Magistrate's Office there is a Victim's Notification Clerk that is paid for by the Magistrates Victim's Witness fund not from the budget. The three (3) paramedics are for the new EMS Station that will be located in Lebanon."

Supervisor Rozier: "We funded the two (2) deputies, by going through the Sheriff's budget and finding enough savings in that budget to fund the two (2) deputies. The three (3) paramedics, what was done there is: \$497,958 left in bond money that has to be spent or we are going to pay arbitrage on it, \$8900 in furnishing for the Engineering building that was planned; engineering and design for the Health Department parking lot \$12,500; \$15,000 for land in Lebanon; \$160,000 for the building in Lebanon; \$8,000 for furnishings; \$42,000 for a quick response vehicle, that comes to \$225,000, then we went into the budget and took out \$250,000 worth of Sheriff's cars out and are funding them with bond money."

Councilmember Spooner: "Will that money be shown in the budget?"

Supervisor Rozier: "No, it is bond money. It will be shown as an expenditure."

Councilmember Mims: "Jim, what was the Fund Balance from last year?"

Robbie Metts: "\$6,308,255 was the Fund Balance from last year."

Councilmember Mims: "I think I am going to answer my own question, but what is Real Property Services? I can't find the Assessor; I think that is what it is. Is that right?"

Robbie Metts: "That is the Assessor's Office."

Councilmember Mims: "Why did you change it?"

Robbie Metts: "It is in line with most counties in the State. They use this verbiage, because Tax Assessor is a taboo word. So they have changed to Real Property Services. If you notice we also changed 911 to 'Address and Information Services'."

Councilmember Richardson: "What is 00100 Vehicle Fee In Lieu?"

Robbie Metts: "That is money we get from the State."

Councilmember Mims: "Under 41501-5389 Human Resources, what is tickets?"

Robbie Metts: "Human Resources provide discount movie ticket for employees. As they are purchased by employees that line item will be refunded back."

Councilmember Richardson: "00100 Vehicle Fee In Lieu. You said it is revenue you get from the State. Do you expect it to increase this year because you have increased the recommended from \$82,000 to \$90,000?"

Robbie Metts: "Thorough today's date we have collected \$89,393, and expect to collect more between now and July 1st. Therefore, we feel safe to say that we can expect \$90,000."

Supervisor Rozier: "Do we have any others questions on the changes made to the budget?"

Councilmember Mims: "41517-5101, Building & Codes, Why is \$573,788 budgeted and then it increased by \$23,405?"

Robbie Metts: "That is a temporary position which was accidentally left out of the budget when it was presented to you. If you will remember that we came to you and eliminated two (2) part-time positions that were helping to collect delinquent Magistrate's fees. Well, inadvertently they eliminated all the temporary positions. They put that temporary employee back in."

Councilmember Mims: "Are we still using the employees from the Animal Shelter for Codes Enforcement?"

Robbie Metts: "They have remained Animal Control Officers. Except the two (2) Animal Tech. positions are now Codes Enforcement Officers."

Supervisor Rozier: "The Animal Tech persons were the employees that took care of the facility."

Councilmember Richardson: "How many of these changes do you know involve new positions?"

Supervisor Rozier: "The five (5) that were mentioned are the only new positions."

Councilmember Pinckney: "41202-5101, Master-in-equity – Personnel Services, why the increase?"

Supervisor Rozier: "It changed to a full-time position, due to a State mandate, because of our population. Once, the new population came in it required a full-time Master-In-Equity."

Robbie Metts: "As of September or October that position will become a full-time position."

Questions are from the budget book from this point forward:

Councilmember Crosby: "Who asked for an increase in personal?"

Supervisor Rozier: "A lot."

Councilmember Crosby: "21 Sheriff, 2 Detention Center, 2 Magistrate, 2 temporary Clerks for Magistrate, 1 part-time for Magistrate, 3 for Court Clerk of Magistrate, Coroner 2 full assistances. No other departments asked for them, or am I missing some?"

Robbie Metts: "That is all of the personnel request."

Councilmember Crosby: "I thought the Library asked for some, but I don't see them."

Councilmember Mims: "Why is revenue so low compared to expenditures? For example, Planning & Zoning revenues is \$18,000 and expenditures is \$316,769. The Auditor doesn't have any revenue."

Robbie Metts: "The Auditor is not a revenue generating department."

Supervisor Rozier: "Many of the departments produce little or no revenue."

Councilmember Mims: "What about when you charge for the plans?"

Robbie Metts: "That is under Permitting."

Councilmember Farley: "Do the new Officials start with the same salary as the old Official was making?"

Chairman Vaughn: "Yes, most certainly."

Councilmember Spooner: "We talked about changing that, but never did it."

Supervisor Rozier: "We talked about making it 80% of the salary of the outgoing Official."

Chairman Vaughn: "Of course if you did that you would have to let them know before they run. When you pay your filing fee to run you pay 1% of the income."

Councilmember Crosby: "I am still on the personnel issue. Is that all the departments that asked for personnel?"

Robbie Metts: "That is all the personnel request that were received by every department in this County."

Councilmember Crosby: "I understand the paramedics for the new Lebanon station, but I was wondering why the Sheriff got two (2) and the Magistrate got one (1)? Normally, everyone asks for personnel at budget time."

Supervisor Rozier: "The Sheriff asked for twenty-one (21) people and got two (2), that's right. We saved enough money within his budget to fund the positions. The Magistrate's Office Victim Witness person is paid for out of State funds"

Councilmember Crosby: "Let me ask this, do the other departments not need the additional personnel?"

Supervisor Rozier: "Yes, I think they do need them. I just did not have the funds to make it happen. If you want to change something in the budget to make it happen or raise taxes to make that happen we can do that."

Councilmember Crosby: "I just wondered out of all the departments if these were all that asked for additional personnel?"

Supervisor Rozier: "I put a pretty stiff notice out to not ask for anybody. I knew that we were going to have such a difficult time I told the directors not to ask for personnel."

Councilmember Crosby: "Maybe, that is the answer. If we want to do something by raising the millage, I think we should do something. There are a lot of needs and we are holding a lot of people back. We may manage to give them a five percent (5%) increase, but if we are going to throw out a 3.5 mill increase for the Fire Department, I don't see why we can't do ourselves some good and just add some more to that."

Chairman Vaughn: "I will not vote for that because I told the people in my tax district that I do not vote for that stuff."

Councilmember Crosby: "I know, we didn't vote for that last night either."

Chairman Vaughn: "They don't have that 3.5 mills yet."

Councilmember Richardson: "Do we have the statistics on the growth of the population in the County?"

Supervisor Rozier: "In the past 10 years the County has grown 10.8%, a little less than 1.1% per year. We have gone from 127,000 to 143,000."

Chairman Vaughn: "In 20 years our budget went from \$19 million to \$35 million."

Councilmember Richardson: "Has the level of service increased?"

Chairman Vaughn: "You have almost twice the money so the level of service should be increasing too."

Councilmember Richardson: "That is my concern what areas of service are being increased?"

Chairman Vaughn: "When we got elected, the Supervisor and myself, 12 years ago. There was not Building Codes, Zoning and limited EMS."

Supervisor Rozier: "We had very little EMS with terrible equipment. Our Roads & Bridges department, you could not find a suburban with the same color doors on it. Our population has gone up about 10.8% and our budget has increased approximately 80-85%. Our Sheriff's department is three (3) times larger than it was."

Chairman Vaughn: "We have built a new jail."

Councilmember Davis: "The Sheriff's department is getting overtime now where they were not before."

Supervisor Rozier: "In 1997 the jail had 33 people working in it in 2002 they have 39 persons. In 1997 the Sheriff's department had 95 people in 2002 they have 130 and are adding 2 more. In a five year period the Sheriff's department has gotten 37 new people."

Chairman Vaughn: "You could give them the 21 requested positions, and next year they would still be wanting more people."

Councilmember Richardson: "They still are not handling any accidents."

Chairman Vaughn: "Henry, down there by me they will not handle one, they said Highway Patrol handles that."

Councilmember Richardson: "The problem I have is with the services they do not provide. Then these messages are passed on saying 'talk to your Councilmember'."

Supervisor Rozier: "What services."

Councilmember Richardson: "There is an accident which sits on the road for 30-45 minutes."

Supervisor Rozier: "That is Highway Patrol."

Councilmember Richardson: "That is not actually Highway Patrol. That is the Law Enforcement in your areas' responsibility. What I am saying is when we have these complaints in our Community. The Sheriff's department in saying they do not have the people to handle the accidents. Then you are saying they are not asking for more people."

Supervisor Rozier: "No, I said they asked for 21 positions."

Chairman Vaughn: "I know that a lot of this is an agreement between the State Highway Patrol and the Berkeley County Sheriff's department."

Supervisor Rozier: "When I get a complaint about any other Elected Official, I tell the person they work for you, they do not work for me. They are in charge of assigning those funds."

Councilmember Richardson: "I understand, what I was unaware of was that the Sheriff's department asked for 21 positions. I was saying that if there are not enough employees to handle the accidents, then the Sheriff should ask for them."

Supervisor Rozier: "Let me give you a number, the Sheriff's budget in 1991 was \$2,850,000, today it is \$8,295,000, three times what it was. The population has only grown 10.8% and the County as not gotten an inch bigger. The Sheriff does a great job, and I am not saying that he has enough, but we have done a pretty good job to get it up."

Chairman Vaughn: "His budget has gone up three (3) times and our budget has only gone up twice (2). I am not just talking about the current Sheriff, but even the past Sheriff, have gotten their fair share of money from this Council."

Councilmember Richardson: "I am still not questioning what he is getting. I want the public to say that my Councilpersons in Berkeley County, and I am going to start looking at it like that because I serve all of Berkeley County, looked into the matter. When there is an accident and a deputy is there and we pose the same question to him, they say we don't have enough manpower to work the accidents."

Chairman Vaughn: "If they are just sitting there then they have enough manpower. It's a management problem not a manpower problem."

Supervisor Rozier: "At each budget I ask the directors to tell me how they want to spend their money. If they have a different way to spend it, which is okay, we are not going to take any money away from them. If the Sheriff tells me 'I don't need three (3) secretaries, I need three (3) deputies,' then that is the way we spend it."

Councilmember Pinckney: "As a body I think it is our responsible to be a watchdog for the things that are going on in the County as a whole. For example, like what happened last night. I think we were off base on that one when we stopped talking about fire protection, and started looking at it by Districts, because you may or may not know that in the Rural or Unincorporated area there are individuals that don't even have potable water. Then we sit up here and say it is not right for the people in one particular area to do this; whereas, people in others areas were not where they are right now. They have used all of taxpayers' money to get where they are now. Now all of a sudden we start coming off with this partial attitude, and I don't think that's right as Elected Officials."

Councilmember Spooner: "Let me inform you on something before we went County wide with \$50. We had some places getting \$50; some getting more than that. Many of the departments that are in dire straits now were only collecting \$25-30. They were not putting the fees on themselves. Goose Creek spent the money, and those departments weren't. If you go back and look at what some of the fees were; some of the departments in the worse shape now were not charging what Goose Creek was, that is why they are in the shape they are in. It's a matter of you can help yourself or not help yourself and Goose Creek chose to help themselves."

Councilmember Pinckney: "No, I think you missed the point."

Chairman Vaughn: "As a builder it costs us money to run sewer in the developments. The County nor State are running the sewer in these neighborhoods, the developer is. I am going to turn that system over to Berkeley County, pay them full percent of the cost of construction to take it, and guess what? It goes on their books as an asset. A lot of what you see happening in those areas are because they are close enough to tie into existing systems. For example, if I had 1000-acre tract that is a half-mile from sewer, I would have to run that half-mile of sewer. Much of this happened because of individual people doing it; not the taxpayers paying for it."

Councilmember Pinckney: "I understand that."

Supervisor Rozier: "One reason I tried to keep the fire budget separate is so that we could keep it separate. No offense to anyone, but if we are going to get off the subject here, we are not going to get finished with the Berkeley County budget."

Councilmember Mims: "What is the amount of all lease payments? What will the total be with the new lease payments?"

Marietta Hicks, Finance Department: "The amount for lease purchase this fiscal year 2002-2003 will be \$1,183,475. This is the amount we will be paying for principle and interest. The amount requested in the 2002-2003 budget is \$89,594; this does not include the enterprise funds, which includes Cypress Gardens and Address Information Services."

Councilmember Mims: "The \$89,594 is included in the \$1 Million?"

Ms. Hicks: "No, that is in addition to the \$1 million."

Councilmember Richardson: "What is included in the lease?"

Supervisor Rozier: "Includes Capitol items such as: vehicles, computers, air conditions, etc. The leases are over a four (4) year period. The interest rates are very low right now."

Councilmember Mims: "Are the lease agreements such that we will be required to pay a lump sum at the end of the four (4) years?"

Supervisor Rozier: "No."

Councilmember Spooner: "We do this so that we will not have to pay the full amount of an item in a single year."

Supervisor Rozier: "This is the only way we have gotten our sheriff's vehicles, Roads & Bridges vehicles, and heavy equipment up to date. We lease purchase all these items, and at the end of the four years they belong to the County."

Councilmember Pinckney: "Last year your budget totaled for expenditures was \$40,467,006. This year we have an increase on revenue?"

Marietta Hicks: "It is best to compare General Fund to General Fund, because Special Revenue can vary from year to year."

Supervisor Rozier: "Our General Fund to General Fund we have a 2% increase over last year. We project our Special Revenue, but it is not a guarantee. Often times we do get more than we projected, but that could not be the case."

Councilmember Spooner: "Many say, well you have this but you spent this. Well, when the money comes in we are required to show it in our formal document. We do that with three readings and a public hearing for Supplemental Appropriations."

Supervisor Rozier: "It may not show only as additions. It may be subtractions too, but you balance with Supplemental Appropriations."

Councilmember Spooner: "You can't look back at the totals from June. You have to look at the totals with the Supplemental Appropriates."

Councilmember Richardson: "I am still not clear on the 00100 Vehicle Fee in Lieu."

Janet Jurosko, Berkeley County Auditor: "Several years ago all the large 18 wheeler trucks were getting out-of-state license because they did not want to pay property tax in South Carolina. So, what the Department of Revenue did was change the law. Now they don't have to register the trucks with the Auditors office they are registered with the Department of Revenue. The Department of Revenue gives the Counties monies according to the mileage."

Supervisor Rozier: "We lost a lot of money on this."

Janet Jurosko: "In the long run maybe not, because we were losing all the revenue before; whereas, now we are getting some."

Councilmember Richardson: "The 2002 budget there was \$82,000 for Vehicle Fee in Lieu. Why is it now changed to \$90,000?"

Robbie Metts: "We have collected more than we projected. So we are going to increase that projection to \$90,000."

Councilmember Mims: "Why is the requested amount less than the recommended amount throughout the book?"

Supervisor Rozier: "They make a request to me and I make a recommended amount of what the County can afford."

Councilmember Mims: "Line Item 00100-4110 Delinquent Taxes, why has that changed from \$500,000 to \$600,000?"

Councilmember Spooner: "I think the words requested and recommended throw you a little bit."

Supervisor Rozier: "Should we say expected or estimated?"

Robbie Metts: "It's really requested because that is what the Department Director requested for the budget."

Supervisor Rozier: "The department projected that there would be \$500,000 collected. Well, to date they have collected \$594,000. Keep in mind that the budgets are done in February and you only have projections through January. Now that we are in June they have a better idea as to what to expect."

Supervisor Rozier: "When I get a budget. I do two things. My goal is to reduce that budget and to increase revenues. If I can increase revenues enough, then I do not have to reduce the requested budget as much. So, I am looking for two things; all the revenue I can find and all the cuts that I can make and still run the County."

Councilmember Richardson: "I think where I am confused is where the budget says requested in the revenue areas."

Supervisor Rozier: "Requested means projected in that particular case. That is what the Department Director or Elected Office projected at that time."

Robbie Metts: "Lets break on down. Line Item 00100-4101 Property Taxes, you have 2002 Original, \$10,369,500, which was the original budget that was passed in June 2001. The 2002 Current, \$10,443,383, showed the amount after the Supplemental Appropriations were added. The Actual through 05/13/2002, \$10,554,722, was when this was ran. We looked at what was actual through 5/13/02 and said we could reasonably expect to collect \$10,873,000 for next years budget. Now that we are a month later we can reasonably expect to collect \$11,730,000."

Supervisor Rozier: "That is \$857,000 we found in revenue that can be projected that did not have to be cut out of departmental budgets."

Councilmember Spooner: "Do you have what we have actually collected to this date?"

Robbie Metts: "The actual we have collect through today's date is \$11,024,000. So, we feel really comfortable with the projection \$11,730,000."

Councilmember Pinckney: "What is line item 00100-4502 DSS in Lieu of Rent?"

Marietta Hicks: "If you will look under Social Services 44401, we get a percentage back from DSS of rental space and communications. The Revenues are budgeted under 44401."

Councilmember Pinckney: "What is line item 001000-7101 Operating Transfers In?"

Robbie Metts: "Transfers in are such items as the National Forest. We have \$510,000 in grant money that is being transferred in through the General Funds budget. We have State Accommodations Tax, which we get \$25,000 off the top, and \$48,000 for County Accommodations. The Transfers Out are the Solicitor's Gun Prosecution Program; Sheriff's SORO (School Resource Officer grant); Emergency Preparedness received a grant of \$98,260; Storm Water Management \$76,550; and an EMS match grant of \$5,000; Library \$1.4 million; GIS \$99,168; GIS Non-Consortium expenses \$53,000, and the Airport Improvement grant match of \$8,333."

Councilmember Pinckney: "How is the money for the National Forest coming in?"

Robbie Metts: "We are getting a total of \$665,000 from that grant. We are getting \$665,000 each year for six (6) years. Twenty percent (20%) of the \$665,000 has to go toward Recreational Services; therefore, \$115,000 was put toward the Lake Moultrie Park, \$40,000 went to Cypress Gardens, and the remaining \$510,000 went into General Fund."

Supervisor Rozier: "What the Federal Government said was because of Hugo and the changes in National Forest in the Country, they were going to give us a chance to go back to the three (3) highest years over the past ten (10) years in what we had received in timber sales."

Chairman Vaughn: "In Hugo we lost all the timber; therefore, can not make money from it. So, what the Federal Government has done is give us this money in lieu of the money lost."

Robbie Metts: "To tell you how bad it got, last budget year we received \$25,000."

Supervisor Rozier: "The year before I became County Supervisor, \$1.8 million was received. The next year when I took over not only did they say we were not going to get any money, but that we owed them \$300,000. We had to pay that back \$100,000 a year."

Councilmember Richardson: "As far as the Recreation Services \$115,000. Is that a limit to or a minimum amount?"

Robbie Metts: "A minimum of 20% has to go toward Recreation Services in order to participate in the program."

Supervisor Rozier: "That allowed us to go forward with the Lake Moultrie Park and the deal with Lion's Beach."

Councilmember Richardson: "This is the first year?"

Robbie Metts: "Correct, we received it this year; therefore this coming budget year will be our second year. We will have four (4) more years after this."

Councilmember Davis: "How do we distribute State "C" funds? I don't see them in the budget."

Supervisor Rozier: "That's distributed by the Transportation Committee. They determine how they are spent. It is based on a points system."

Kacy Smith, Deputy Finance Director: "State "C" funds are held in agency funds. They are held separate and do not sit in the General fund. The Transportation Committee determines which projects they are going to use the money for. Then the expenditures sit in special revenue fund."

Councilmember Davis: "Did we start that this year or has it always been that way?"

Kacy Smith: "It has always been that way."

Councilmember Mims: "In the back of the book I would like to go over line item by line item on 47003 Wage & Benefits Adjustments. When I asked that question about the Cost of Living 5103 you have \$105,000 listed but under Requested and Recommended there are no figures."

Robbie Metts: "Last year the \$105,000 was the 2% increase that was not tied to merit. The 5% increase that was mentioned tonight was done in each department's budget. That is why there is nothing showing here."

Supervisor Rozier: "When we show it as a Cost of Living it is all bulked together as one number as you see here, but when we show it as a merit it goes under each department's numbers. It is a percentage of that department."

Robbie Metts: "The Health Insurance listed is for County Retirees."

Councilmember Richardson: "What is 5105 Classification – salary adj. used for?"

Robbie Metts: "That is a pot of money that is used for salary adjustments for the budget year."

Councilmember Richardson: "So, this money can be used to adjust salaries throughout the County?"

Supervisor Rozier: "If there is a situation where we need to make an adjustment we can come to Council and then get the money from this fund."

Robbie Metts: "I am being told I am not correct."

Marie Wauben, Human Resource Director: "That is a fund that is under Human Resources control. It is used for example, if there is a mathematical error made in the calculation of a raise and the date it was to be effective we then use this money for that correction. If someone buys back their years of service with the State we use this fund. It is a back up account if a problem arises. If an employee is put in at the wrong salary and we have to go back and make a retroactive payment then we use this account to do that. It is a small adjustment account for salaries so that I don't have to come to Council each time for errors that may come up."

Councilmember Richardson: "Correct me if I am wrong, but I thought you were coming to us each time you needed an adjustment and we were looking for places to get the money from to make the adjustment."

Supervisor Rozier: "If it was a salary that Council has already approved and an error was made in that salary then we don't come back to Council, we just make the adjustment to the salary."

Marie Wauben: "We mostly use it for clerical errors. It is not used a lot, but there are years when we have to use the amount requested."

Councilmember Pinckney: "How do you get these funds?"

Marie Wauben: "It is budgeted in the Human Resources budget. We do have incidents where we have retirement buy back and we have to match that."

Supervisor Rozier: "Let me give you an example. If an employee comes in and says I had two (2) years as a school bus driver and they want to buy those two (2) years back at \$6000. In turn it also cost us a match of \$6000 in order for them to buy back their time. They are phasing that out, but currently we still have to do this on occasion."

Councilmember Mims: "Tell me about 5109 Workmen's Comp Insurance."

Marie Wauben: "The next three (3) lines: Worker's Comp., Retirement Contrib.-Regular, and FICA Taxes goes toward the temporary employees listed in line item 5104. This allows us to always have benefits budgeted for them."

Councilmember Mims: "What is 5542 Special Contracts?"

Marie Wauben: "That consists of the EAP (Employee Assistance Program) Contract with the Kennedy Center, which is \$6,550. Then we use the balance of that money to obtain temporary employees from a temporary agency, and this has to be done through a contractual basis. The temporary agency takes care of the benefits for these employees. They are generally used when an employee is on FMLA (Family Medical Leave)."

Councilmember Richardson: "If an employee goes out on FMLA to have a child then you fill that position with a temporary employee?"

Robbie Metts: "If the Director request a temporary employee. The position is not automatically filled with a temporary employee."

Councilmember Richardson: "Under 41502 what is line item 4206 Cable TV Franchise Fee?"

Supervisor Rozier: "We get a percentage from all Cable Companies in the County."

Chairman Vaughn: "We don't let them run cable in the County for free."

Councilmember Richardson: "Why is it under the Legal Department?"

Robbie Metts: "The Attorney handles the Contracts."

Councilmember Spooner: "Also, if someone complains that the company is not giving them cable service then the complaint goes to the County Attorney."

Councilmember Richardson: "What is 4365 Savings on Accident Repair?"

Marietta Hicks: "That is made up of for example; if we get \$1,500 for repairs to an automobile then the actual repairs total \$1,000 the remaining \$500 is placed in this account. So, it is the savings that we received from the insurance company to the actual repair."

Supervisor Rozier: "A revenue does not mean the Legal Department gets to spend the money. It just passes through the Legal Departments books. It goes into the General Fund."

Councilmember Richardson: "What is 44405 Farm & Land Services?"

Robbie Metts: "That is Soil Conservation District."

Councilmember Spooner: "Who does that salary go to?"

Robbie Metts: "One (1) clerk."

Councilmember Richardson: "What is 44420 Hanahan Senior Citizens Match?"

Councilmember Spooner: "If the County gets the grant this is a wonderful project."

Supervisor Rozier: "If the County gets the grant, it is to build a Senior Citizens Center in Hanahan. The County has one in Goose Creek, Moncks Corner, and St. Stephens."

Councilmember Spooner: "It will be the least expensive on our part of participation the County has ever help build."

Supervisor Rozier: "Hanahan is funding the most of the match."

Councilmember Richardson: "What is 44107-4460 EMS Grant?"

Robbie Metts: "That's a \$5,000 equipment grant we received."

Supervisor Rozier: "That is a grant we get every year. We receive \$5,000 and we match \$5,000."

Councilmember Farley: "What is 44406 Medical Indigent?"

Supervisor Rozier: "That is an amount the State tells us each year we have to put into a Medical Indigent Fund. It goes up each year. This came from the 1980's when a baby was not accepted at Richland Memorial Hospital because the family did not have money or insurance. The General Assembly corrected the problem by making each County put in toward indigent care and every hospital has to accept everybody. Clara Estaris takes the individuals' applications and decides if they are eligible for funding, it is handled in the MIAP office in this building. We provide the office, furnish it and provide the employee to handle the claims. It is rather hard for someone to get the funds."

Councilmember Spooner: "These are the people who fall through the cracks so to speak. There are people that have insurance, and those with welfare and Medicare. These are the "working poor," as they used to be referred to."

Councilmember Richardson: "One area that has drawn my attention is the floor in the Court House. I think it will save a large amount of money in lawsuits in the long run. This is under 41210 Clerk of Court."

Supervisor Rozier: "This was denied strictly for money reasons."

Councilmember Richardson: "Slip & Fall is a very easy way to collect money."

Chairman Vaughn: "Sure it is, that is why department stores have cameras in them. To make sure if you slip & fall, that you really slip & fell."

Councilmember Richardson: "I know it is a money issue, but I wonder how we address other Safety issues like this one. To better the environment for the citizens and workers especially coming in and out of the building, or any other issue that may be a liability to us in the future. Sometimes you have to pay the cost."

Councilmember Spooner: "I think it will be a good thing to do. We have made this public and we know there is a need, and I think we need to take care of that need."

It was moved by Councilmember Spooner and seconded by Councilmember Farley to approve \$12,835.00 be added to the Carry Over to replace the floors in the Clerk of Courts' department with Safety Zone VCT Flooring. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Councilmember Spooner: "On Section 6, page 2 of the proviso, we have all Boards and Commissions established by County Council shall provide to County Council upon request a copy of the minutes of the meetings of such Boards and Commissions. This to me implies that we require all of them to keep minutes. When actual we have not done that. I think an Action Report is better. The Fire Board used to give us Action Reports and they would just have the motions and result of the motion; you had no other discussion along with it. Section 8, I had a question with the per diem, In-State and Out-of- State, it is good except in Hilton Head."

Supervisor Rozier: "You can make Hilton Head the same as Out-of-State. That is where our conference is and we have no choice over that."

Councilmember Spooner: "Section 12, the last sentence Fire Departments indicates that no Fire Department will be able to draw on funds until said bylaws are presented to and recommended by County Special Fire Tax District. I talked to Rembert and all of them have turned in bylaws, which are not the problem. Since we already have the bylaws I think we need to be requiring an audit."

Supervisor Rozier: "If you get into requiring from the Fire Departments, you are getting into a libelous situation. The Fire Departments have a Board elected by the people and that is the way it is supposed to run. We are not supposed to get into requirements. If we start getting into their business we are going to have problems."

It was moved by Councilmember Spooner and seconded by Farley to approve the changes to the Proviso as presented. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Councilmember Pinckney: "I would like to thank the Chairman for having the workshop. It was not to point the finger at anyone, but to get information. I appreciate it and mean that with all sincerity."

It was moved by Councilmember Pinckney and seconded by Councilmember Spooner to adjourn the Committee on Finance Budget Workshop. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

July 22, 2002
Date Approved

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Steve M. Vaughn, District No. 5

Members: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1
Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2
Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., District No. 7
Mr. Henry L. Richardson, Jr., District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

A meeting of the COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, will be held on Tuesday June 18, 2002, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the county; or discussions of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the County in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the County of a claim.

A. BUDGET WORKSHOP

June 13, 2002
S/Barbara B. Austin
Clerk to County Council